

FILED

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
FORT MYERS DIVISION

14 MAY 30 AM 11:05

CLERK, U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA  
FT. MYERS, FLORIDA

EDWARD BYROM,

Plaintiff,

CASE NO.

v.

MIDLAND CREDIT  
MANAGEMENT, INC.

2:14-cv-294-FTM-38cm

Defendant.

PLAINTIFF'S VERIFIED COMPLAINT

COMES NOW the Plaintiff, EDWARD BYROM ("Plaintiff"), by and through his attorneys, KROHN & MOSS, LTD., and for Plaintiff's Complaint against Defendant, MIDLAND CREDIT MANAGEMENT, INC. ("Defendant"), alleges and affirmatively state as follows:

INTRODUCTION

1. Count I of Plaintiff's Complaint is based on the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. 1692 *et seq.* (FDCPA).
2. Count II of the Plaintiff's Complaint is based on Telephone Consumer Protection Act, 28 U.S.C. § 227 *et seq.* (TCPA).

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

3. Jurisdiction of this Court over Count I of Plaintiff's Complaint arises pursuant to 15 U.S.C. 1692k(d), which states that such actions may be brought and heard before "any appropriate United States district court without regard to the amount in controversy."
4. Jurisdiction of this Court over Count II of Plaintiff's Complaint arises pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331.

5. Because Defendant conducts business in the State of Florida, personal jurisdiction is established.

6. Venue is proper pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 1391(b)(2).

### **PARTIES**

7. Plaintiff is a natural person who resides in Naples, Collier County, Florida and is obligated or allegedly obligated to pay a debt and is a "consumer" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. 1692a(3).

8. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant is a national debt collection company with a business office in San Diego, California.

9. Defendant acted through its agents, employees, officers, members, directors, heirs, successors, assigns, principals, trustees, sureties, subrogees, representatives, and insurers.

10. Plaintiff is informed, believes, and thereon alleges, that Defendant uses instrumentalities of interstate commerce or the mails in any business the principal purpose of which is the collection of any debts, or who regularly collects or attempts to collect, directly or indirectly, debts owed or due or asserted to be owed or due another and is a "debt collector" as that term is defined by 15 U.S.C. § 1692a(6).

### **FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS**

11. Defendant constantly and consistently places telephone calls to plaintiff in an attempt to collect a debt allegedly owed by "Esmeralda Ramirez."

12. Plaintiff is not "Esmeralda Ramirez," has never gone by the name "Esmeralda Ramirez," and does not know "Esmeralda Ramirez."

13. Plaintiff does not owe the alleged debt Defendant is attempting to collect.

14. Defendant places telephone calls to Plaintiff on Plaintiff's cellular telephone at 602-361-33XX

15. Defendant places telephone calls from numbers including, but not limited to,

877-237-0512

16. Per its prior business practices, each collection call placed by Defendant to Plaintiff was placed using an automatic telephone dialing system.

17. Plaintiff has never had any business dealings with Defendant, and has never provided Defendant with any of his contact information including his telephone number.

18. Plaintiff never consented, either explicitly or implicitly, to receive automated telephone calls from Defendant on his cellular telephone.

19. Defendant placed at least thirty-six (36) collection calls to Plaintiff at the following approximate dates:

- December 3, 2013: one (1) call;
- December 4, 2013: one (1) call;
- December 9, 2013: one (1) call;
- December 10, 2013: one (1) call;
- January 17, 2014: one (1) call;
- January 18, 2014: one (1) call;
- January 20, 2014: two (2) calls
- January 26, 2013: one (1) call;
- January 27, 2013: one (1) call;
- January 28, 2014: seven (7) calls;
- January 30, 2014: three (3) calls;
- January 31, 2014: two (2) calls;
- February 1, 2014: one (1) call;
- February 2, 2014: nine (9) calls;
- February 3, 2014: one (1) call;
- March 7, 2014: one (1) call;

- March 10, 2014: two (2) calls;

**COUNT I**  
**DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES ACT,**  
**(FDCPA), 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq.**

20. Defendant violated the FDCPA. Defendant's violations include, but are not limited to the following:

- a. Defendant violated § 1692d of the FDCPA by engaging in conduct the natural consequence of which is to harass, oppress, and/or abuse Plaintiff;
- b. Defendant violated § 1692d(5) of the FDCPA by causing a telephone to ring repeatedly or continuously with intent to annoy, abuse, or harass Plaintiff.

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against the Defendant for the following:

21. Statutory damages of \$1,000.00 pursuant to the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. 1692k;
22. Costs and reasonable attorney's fees pursuant to the FDCPA, 15 U.S.C. 1692k;
- and
23. Any other relief that this court deems to be just and proper.

**COUNT II**  
**DEFENDANT VIOLATED THE TELEPHONE CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT**

24. Defendant's actions alleged *supra* constitute numerous negligent violations of the TCPA, entitling Plaintiff to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages for each and every violation pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).
25. Defendant's actions alleged *supra* constitute numerous and multiple knowing and/or willful violations of the TCPA, entitling Plaintiff to an award of \$1500.00 in statutory damages for each and every violation pursuant to 47 U.S.C. §

227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

**WHEREFORE**, Plaintiff respectfully prays that judgment be entered against the Defendant for the following:

26. Statutory damages of \$500.00 for each and every negligent violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § (b)(3)(B);
27. Statutory damages of \$1500.00 for each and every knowing and/or willful violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § (b)(3)(b) and 47 U.S.C. § (b)(3)(C);
28. All court costs, witness fees and other fees incurred; and
29. Any other relief that this Honorable Court deems appropriate.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

By 

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